

RESOLUTION: GUARANTEED LIVABLE BASIC INCOME (GLBI)

Whereas poverty has a downstream effect on municipalities, putting unsustainable pressure on their limited resources to deliver necessary public services and social supports as they struggle to keep up with downloaded responsibilities,

And whereas basic income addresses key social determinants of health, such as income and housing, it can alleviate pressures on municipalities to address poverty and fill gaps in social supports, such as shelter, housing, food security and mental health,

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC calls on the Government of Canada to implement a Guaranteed Livable Basic Income, ensuring everyone has sufficient income to meet their needs, which would go a long way towards eradicating poverty and homelessness, alleviating the pressure on municipalities to use their limited resources to fill gaps in our failing social safe net,

And be it further resolved that AVICC endorse this Resolution, and forward the same to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) for consideration at its annual convention in September 2022.

Background: Guaranteed Livable Basic Income (GLBI)

A federally funded Guaranteed Livable Basic Income (GLBI) program would help alleviate financial pressures on municipalities by addressing poverty and managing services associated with homelessness and social inequity, while boosting local consumer spending that supports local economies. When people have a sufficient income, there is less strain on municipalities and the services they provide. A federally funded GLBI would help municipal services remain sustainable and affordable for everyone. Working in concert with social support services, a GLBI would help ensure that all people have an income sufficient to live with dignity and health, enabling them to fully participate in community.

Municipalities are at the front line in dealing with community impacts when people are unable to support their own wellbeing. The Covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated municipal constraints, leaving them to deal with exposed gaps in our social safety net resulting from growing economic, racial and health inequalities.

Evidence from basic income research and pilots shows that when people have a sufficient and secure income their mental and physical health improves; they have the capacity to secure more affordable, suitable, and safe housing, childcare, healthy food, and transportation; and poverty rates decrease thereby helping to alleviate the downloaded pressure on municipalities to support the wellbeing of their residents. The provision of a guaranteed livable basic income would benefit individuals, families and communities and protect the most vulnerable in society, it would also support community resilience by facilitating the transition to a local economy that responds to the climate crisis and other major challenges,

Evidence shows that a federally funded basic income that improves people's financial stability is possible, as successful income transfer programs already exist in Canada for seniors (Old Age Security and the Guaranteed Income Supplement) and parents (Canada Child Benefit (CCB)).

The following Motion is informed and supported by these documents:

Federation of Canadian Municipalities. (2017, July). Ending Poverty Starts Locally: municipal recommendations for a Canadian poverty reduction strategy. Available at:

<https://fcm.ca/sites/default/files/documents/resources/submission/ending-poverty-starts-locally.pdf>

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<https://policyoptions.irpp.org/magazines/june-2021/lets-empower-municipalities-too-often-the-little-siblings-of-federalism/>.

Federation of Canadian Municipalities. (2020, November). Building back better together: Municipal recommendations for Canada's post-COVID recovery. Available at:

<https://data.fcm.ca/documents/COVID-19/fcm-building-back-better-together.pdf>

Canadian Public Health Association. (n.d.). What are the Social Determinants of Health?

Available at: <https://www.cpha.ca/what-are-social-determinants-health>

Living Wage Canada. (n.d.). Living Wages are good for your health. Available

at: <http://www.livingwagecanada.ca/files/2913/8443/7004/Health-Fact-Sheet1.pdf>

Forget, E. L. (2020, October). Basic Income for Canadians: from the covid-19 emergency to financial security for all.

Pasma, C. Regehr, S. (2019). Basic Income: Some Policy Options for Canada. Available at: https://basicincomecanada.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Basic_Income-Some_Policy_Options_for_Canada.pdf

Ferdosi, M. et al. (2020, March). Southern Ontario's Basic Income Experience. McMaster University. Available at: <https://labourstudies.mcmaster.ca/documents/southern-ontarios-basic-income-experience.pdf>

Forget, E. L. (2011). The town with no poverty: The health effects of a Canadian guaranteed annual income field experiment. Canadian Public Policy. Available at: <https://utpjournals.press/doi/pdf/10.3138/cpp.37.3.283>

McIntyre, L. et al. (2016, August 15). Impact of a guaranteed annual income program on Canadian seniors' physical, mental and functional health. Canadian Journal of Public Health. Available at: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/90006452.pdf?refreqid=excelsior%3A4550717cc61398d6567c389476cdc5ca>

Baker, M., Messacar, D., and Stabile, D. (March 2021). The Effects of Child Tax Benefits on Poverty and Labor Supply: Evidence from the Canada Child Benefit and Universal Child Care Benefit. Available at: https://www.nber.org/system/files/working_papers/w28556/w28556.pdf.